

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An elongated intracorporeal optical instrument of claim 1, comprising:

a. an elongated shaft having a longitudinal axis and proximal and distal portions having ends, the proximal portion having a substantially constant outer diameter, an optical pathway configured for passing optical radiation, and an internal surface having a proximal portion and defining an internal chamber within the elongated shaft extending to the optical pathway;

b. an elongated optical fiber extending substantially an entire length of said internal chamber of said elongated shaft; and

c. a ferrule directly connected to said optical fiber and having a distal portion with a diameter and an outer surface, a proximal portion with a substantially constant outer diameter and an outer surface, the outer diameter being substantially the same as the outer diameter of the elongated shaft proximal portion, and configured to have a first position in which said ferrule is secured to the elongated shaft and a second position in which the ferrule is released from the elongated shaft and is free to rotate around said longitudinal axis, wherein said ferrule diameters are each less than about 0.006 inch.

8-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) An elongated intracorporeal optical instrument, comprising:

a. an elongated shaft having a longitudinal axis and proximal and distal portions having ends, the proximal portion having a substantially constant outer diameter, an optical pathway configured for passing optical radiation, and an internal surface

having a proximal portion and defining an internal chamber within the elongated shaft extending to the optical pathway;

b. an elongated optical fiber extending substantially a length of said internal chamber of said elongated shaft;

c. a ferrule directly connected to said optical fiber and having a distal portion with a diameter and an outer surface, a proximal portion with a substantially constant outer diameter and an outer surface, the outer diameter being substantially the same as the outer diameter of the elongated shaft proximal portion, and configured to have a first position in which said ferrule is secured to the elongated shaft and a second position in which the ferrule is released from the elongated shaft and is free to rotate around said longitudinal axis;

wherein said ferrule diameters are each less than about 0.01 inch.